

## Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PRS-01 EUR-12 DODE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 /056 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/EGY:HFMATTHEWS:CEK

APPROVED BY NEA - MR SAUNDERS

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O 220010Z JUL 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

SECRET STATE 171668

E.O. 11652: ADS - DECLASSIFY 8/1/75

TAGS: MASS, EG

SUBJECT: PRESS RELEASE ON DEPARTURE OF USS OPPORTUNE

1. WITH THE DEPARTURE OF USS OPPORTUNE FROM THE SUEZ CANAL AREA ON JULY 22, DOD WOULD LIKE TO ISSUE PRESS RELEASE WITH TEXT AS GIVEN BELOW. PLEASE ASCERTAIN WHETHER ISSUANCE OF THIS RELEASE ACCEPTABLE TO GOE.

2. BEGIN TEXT: THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE ANNOUNCED TODAY THE END OF ITS PARTICIPATION IN ONE OF THE LARGEST AND MOST IMPORTANT SALVAGE AND ORDNANCE CLEARANCE OPERATIONS SINCE WORLD WAR II. THE USS OPPORTUNE (ARS-41), THE LAST UNIT OF TASK FORCE SIXTY-FIVE, SAILED FROM THE SUEZ CANAL AND MARKED COMPLETION OF OVER 15 MONTHS OF US RESIDUAL FORCE ACTIVITY IN THAT AREA.

TASK FORCE SIXTY-FIVE WAS ESTABLISHED IN APRIL 1974 TO SUPPORT THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE EGYPTIAN AND THE U.S. GOVERNMENTS WHEREBY THE UNITED STATES WOULD ASSIST IN CLEARING THE SUEZ CANAL. THE EFFORT INCLUDED MINESWEEPING

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OF THE CANAL AND ITS CLOSE-IN CHANNEL APPROACHES, TRAINING

EGYPTIAN MILITARY PERSONNEL IN EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE DISPOSAL  
AND UNDERWATER DEMOLITION, THE SALVAGE AND REMOVAL OF  
SUNKEN WRECKED SHIPS, AND AIR FORCE AIRLIFT, LOGISTICS AND

COMMUNICATIONS SUPPORT OF THE OPERATION.

U.S. ARMY AND NAVY DISPOSAL PERSONNEL, AIR FORCE LOGISTICS  
SUPPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS PERSONNEL AND AIR CREWS, AND  
MINESWEEPING SHIPS OF THE U.S., EGYPTIAN, BRITISH AND  
FRENCH NAVIES, AS WELL AS CIVILIAN SALVAGE PERSONNEL UNDER  
CONTRACT TO THE U.S. NAVY'S SUPERVISOR OF SALVAGE COMBINED  
TO CONCLUDE THE MAJOR CLEARANCE EFFORT WHICH ENABLED THE  
CANAL TO BE REOPENED BY EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT ANWAR EL SADAT  
ON 5 JUNE 1975.

TASK FORCE SIXTY-FIVE IS PRESENTLY COMMANDED BY CAPT PAUL  
P. CONNOLLY OF NORFOLK, VA. END TEXT.

KISSINGER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS RELEASES, SHIP MOVEMENTS, VISITS, OPPORTUNE USS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 22 JUL 1975  
**Decapton Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decapton Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ShawDG  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975STATE171668  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** HFMATTHEWS:CEK  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** AS SIFY 8/1/75  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750251-1173  
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**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ORIGIN NEA  
**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
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**Previous Classification:** SECRET  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ShawDG  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 01 AUG 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
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06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PRESS RELEASE ON DEPARTURE OF USS OPPORTUNE  
**TAGS:** PFOR, MARR, EG, US  
**To:** CAIRO  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006